

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS RODMAN/ADAMS/BORG FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MILLICENT FENWICK COLUMN, MARCH 21
NYTIMES, HEADLINED, "MILITARY AID FOR VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA?
NO."

2. WASHINGTON -- AS ONE MEMBER OF A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGA-
TION OF EIGHT, I WENT TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ON A FACT-
FINDING MISSION. IT WAS A SOBERING, HIGHLY EDUCATIONAL,
EXPERIENCE.

3. CAMBODIA GAVE THE FIRST CLEAR LESSON. SHE IS SO NEAR
THE TRAGIC CONCLUSION OF HER DRAMA THAT THE ONLY REMAINING
QUESTION IS HOW TO ACHIEVE AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER,
AND THE BASIC REALITY IS CHINA.

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4. CHINA SUPPLIES ARMS TO THE KMER ROUGE, WHICH NOW

CONTROLS 80 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY. THE TOTTERING GOVERNMENT OF MARSHAL LON NOL CANNOT LAST. THERE MUST BE A STRUCTURE THAT WILL PROTECT THE PEOPLE IN THE CROWDED CAPITAL, PHNOM PENH, AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CARING FOR THEM.

5. BUT UNLESS THIS HAS THE BACKING OF CHINA, THE KILLING WILL CONTINUE. THE OBVIOUS HOPE IS PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK, AND HE RECENTLY SENT A CABLE TO THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, MIKE MANSFIELD, OFFERING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND AMNESTY TO ALL CAMBODIANS EXCEPT MARSHAL LON NOL AND HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS. THIS COULD BE THE START OF A CONTROLLED AND STABLE SITUATION.

6. MARSHAL LON NOL INTIMATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO RESIGN WHEN WE MET WITH HIM. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE IN A POSITION OF DEPOSING OR INSTALLING CHIEFS OF FOREIGN STATES, BUT WE SHOULD AT LEAST PROPOSE OUR GOOD OFFICES ON BEHALF OF ANY PLAN THAT GIVES HOPE OF PEACE.

7. FURTHER MILITARY AID TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE USELESS AND MIGHT, IN FACT, BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR LON NOL AND A REBUFF TO PRINCE SIHANOUK.

8. CAMBODIA PROVIDED A SECOND LESSON. AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN GENEROUSLY TO PEOPLE IN TROUBLE. LONG BEFORE FOREIGN AID WAS THOUGHT OF, ORDINARY CITIZENS WERE SENDING HELP TO THE VICTIMS OF WAR AND DISASTER FROM RUSSIA TO THE YANGTZE RIVER. CAMBODIA NOW SHOWS US THAT WHEN WE GIVE FOOD AND MEDICINE TO PEOPLE IN NEED, WE SHOULD DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, OF WHICH THERE ARE SUCH SHINING EXAMPLES IN PHNOM PENH. WORLD VISION, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, CARE, AND THE LUTHERAN SERVICES ARE CHARGED WITH ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FEEDING AND CARING FOR THESE PEOPLE. THE DISEASES ARE TERRIBLE. BUBONIC PLAGUE, CHOLERA, PELLAGRA, KWASHIORKOR AND ALL OTHER ILLNESSES OF MALNUTRITION ARE RAMPANT.

9. THE CHILDREN ARE SO FAMISHED THAT THEY MUST BE FED
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INTRAVENOUSLY BEFORE THEIR BODIES CAN ACCEPT FOOD. I HAVE NEVER SEEN OR IMAGINED SUCH HUMAN SUFFERING AND THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT COMES TO MIND IS "STOP THE KILLING."

10. VIETNAM IS A FAR MORE COMPLICATED CASE THAN CAMBODIA BECAUSE THE CRISIS IS FARTHER AWAY, BUT THERE IS AN OMINOUS FEELING THAT CAMBODIA'S FATE MAY SOONER OR LATER

BE DUPLICATED. THE PEOPLE TO WHOM WE LISTENED WERE ALL
OPPOSED TO A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. EVEN THOSE IN
OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU, THOUGH THEY
HOPE TO SEE HIM OUT OF OFFICE, WANTED NO COMMUNIST
GOVERNMENT. THEY WANTED FREE ELECTIONS AND WERE CONFIDENT
THAT A "THIRD FORCE" WOULD WIN.

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11. IT SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY THAT EITHER OF THESE COULD
COME ALONG WITH THE VICTORY OF THE P.R.G. AND NORTH VIET-
NAM, BUT THE LESSON HERE IS THAT IT MUST BE THEIR
CHOICE -- NOT OURS. A FEW DAYS OR WEEKS OR YEARS IN A
COUNTRY DO NOT GIVE A FOREIGNER THE RIGHT TO BELIEVE
THAT ANY VIEW CAN BE BETTER THAN THAT OF THE PEOPLE TO
WHOM THE COUNTRY BELONGS.

12. IN THE CASE OF BOTH CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, I THINK WE
MUST FACE THE FACT THAT MILITARY AID SENT FROM AMERICA
WILL NOT SUCCEED. IT WILL ONLY DELAY THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE KIND OF STABLE SITUATION -- WHATEVER FORM THAT
TAKES -- THAT WILL AT LEAST STOP THE HORRIBLE SUFFERING
OF WAR. WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE. THOSE WHO SENT ARMS TO
NORTH VIETNAM AND THE KHMER ROUGE MAY WELL CONTINUE TO DO
SO FOR THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS. THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED
STATES WILL NOT. IT IS NOT ONLY THAT WE FEEL WE HAVE
MANY PROBLEMS AT HOME THAT NEED ATTENTION. IT IS ALSO A
FEELING THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE IN THE BUSINESS OF MAIN-
TAINING ENDLESS AND FUTILE WARS.

13. THERE WILL BE SOME WHO FEEL THAT THE PRESTIGE AND
STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES WILL SUFFER IN SUCH A
DENOUEMENT. I DO NOT AGREE. WE MUST HAVE A SOLID CAPA-
CITY FOR DEFENSE. WE MUST HAVE A CLEAR FOREIGN POLICY,
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SOUNDLY BASED ON PUBLIC DEBATE AND CONSENSUS, ABOUT
OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. WITH THESE FIRMLY IN HAND, WE
SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON A SINCERE CONCERN FOR ALL PEOPLE,
AND SENSIBLE ACTIONS TO EXPRESS THAT CONCERN. PRESTIGE
AND STATUS COULD HAVE NO FUNCTION MORE SECURE. (END
TEXT). INGERSOLL

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